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DRAFT DECLARATION ON THE IMPROVEMENT OF COOPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS AND REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Working paper submitted by the Russian Federation

The General Assembly,

Recalling the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations concerning the role of regional arrangements and agencies in the maintenance of international peace and security, and in particular the provisions of Chapter VIII of the Charter,

Recalling also the Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Cooperation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, the Manila Declaration on the Peaceful Settlement of International Disputes, the Declaration on the Enhancement of the Effectiveness of the Principle of Refraining from the Threat or Use of Force in International Relations, the Declaration on the Prevention and Removal of Disputes and Situations Which May Threaten International Peace and Security and on the Role of the United Nations in this Field, the Declaration on Fact-finding by the United Nations in the Field of the Maintenance of International Peace and Security, and their provisions concerning the activities of regional organizations in the field of the maintenance of international peace and security,

Recognizing that regional arrangements and agencies could play an important role in dealing with such matters relating to the maintenance of international peace and security as are appropriate for regional action, provided that such agencies and their activities are consistent with the Purposes and Principles of the United Nations,

Taking into account the experience gained and the favourable results achieved by regional organizations in the peaceful settlement of disputes in different parts of the world,

Bearing in mind the variety of mandates, scope and composition of regional arrangements and agencies, and that the forms of interaction of these arrangements and agencies with the United Nations should be flexible and suited to each specific situation,

Emphasizing that, while preserving the primary responsibility of the Security Council for the maintenance of international peace and security, regional action in terms of cooperation with the United Nations might lighten the burden borne by the Organization,

Taking into account the need for more effective coordination of the efforts of regional arrangements and agencies with those of the United Nations in the maintenance of international peace and security,

Considering that more active involvement of regional arrangements and agencies in the maintenance of international peace and security would promote the development and strengthening of collective security in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations,

Solemnly declares that:

1. Regional arrangements and agencies can, within their spheres of competence and in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, make important contributions to the maintenance of international peace and security, preventive diplomacy, peacemaking, peace-keeping and post-conflict peace-building;

2. Regional arrangements and agencies are invited to pay increased attention within their spheres of competence, to ways and means of promoting closer cooperation and coordination with the United Nations with the aim of contributing to the fulfilment of the Purposes and Principles of the Charter, including in the fields of fact-finding, confidence-building, good offices, peace-building and, where appropriate, peace-keeping;

3. Cooperation between regional arrangements and agencies and the United Nations may take the form, in particular, of the exchange of information and consultation with a view to enhancing the United Nations capability for, inter alia, monitoring and early warning, with the participation of the Secretary-General or, as the case may be, his special representative; participating as observers in the sessions and the work of the General Assembly; secondment of officials to the United Nations Secretariat; the submission of timely and specific requests for the United Nations to take appropriate measures; and the willingness to provide necessary resources;

4. The forms of cooperation between regional arrangements and agencies and the United Nations in the field of maintenance of international peace and security should be flexible and suited to each specific situation;

5. States participating in regional arrangements and agencies should make every effort to effect a peaceful settlement of local disputes with the help of the regional organizations before referring such disputes to the Security Council;

6. States should seek to establish and improve preventive peacemaking mechanisms in the field of peaceful settlement of disputes and conflicts in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations;

7. States are invited to consider the possibility of strengthening the preventive functions of regional organizations and of establishing for this purpose procedures and mechanisms for identifying and detecting regional disputes and situations at an early stage in their development and taking appropriate measures to prevent their escalation or transformation into military confrontations, and also to ensure close coordination with the preventive efforts of the United Nations;

8. Taking into account the practice of the United Nations and in coordination with the Security Council, regional arrangements and agencies are invited to consider the possibility of establishing training and using at the regional level groups of military and civilian observers, contingents of regional peacemaking forces for the purposes of fact-finding, separating the opposing forces, providing humanitarian assistance, monitoring compliance with cease-fire and truce agreements, having also in mind the possibility of making such trained personnel available for United Nations operations;

9. The Security Council, taking into account the varying mandates, scopes and composition of regional arrangements and agencies, should encourage and, where appropriate, support such regional efforts as are undertaken under regional arrangements and by regional agencies within their respective spheres of competence in accordance with the Purposes and Principles of the Charter of the United Nations;

10. The Security Council should encourage the development of peaceful settlement of local disputes through regional organizations either on the initiative of the States concerned or by reference from the Security Council;

11. Dispute settlement by States participating in regional organizations with the assistance of such organizations shall not affect the authority of the Security Council to investigate any dispute or situation which might lead to international friction or give rise to a dispute, in accordance with Article 34 of the Charter of the United Nations, or the right of any Member of the United Nations, in accordance with Article 35 of the Charter, to bring any dispute or situation of the nature referred to in Article 34 to the attention of the Security Council or of the General Assembly;

12. The Security Council shall, where appropriate, utilize regional agreements or agencies for enforcement action under its authority, but no enforcement action may be undertaken under regional arrangements or by regional agencies without the authorization of the Security Council;

13. The Security Council shall at all times be kept fully informed of activities undertaken or envisaged under regional arrangements or by regional agencies for the maintenance of international peace and security;

14. Regional arrangements and agencies that have not yet applied for observer status with the United Nations are invited to do so.